

There is a great deal of savings that could come from Medicare if we used scientific, evidence-based medicine to help improve chronic care conditions and deal with many other programs. That was rejected. Instead, we will cut the money from Medicare.

Another amendment I offered makes sure that if the Senate should move forward with their provision of allowing States to opt out, the States should also be able to opt out of paying the health care taxes. In other words, we should have no taxation without hospitalization. Instead, my fear is that high taxes will remain in the bill to the point where it is going to cost our economy more jobs and cost our small businesses more.

There still is much to do in this bill, and it is not yet ready. I still hope there is time in the coming weeks to improve these bills and work on real health care reform.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one of the strangest sights, and now a symbol of the health care debate, was the red-faced protesters, egged on by my GOP colleagues to “keep government out of their Medicare”. These people are not ignorant; they are uninformed, and unfortunately, purposely misled by some on the other side of the aisle, by Republican talking points that deny government can have a constructive role in health care, even as they rely on government for health care for seniors, veterans, emergency services and, of course, for themselves.

When most Americans are given the facts, they are pleased that it is now time to take the next steps beyond our seniors, beyond our veterans, beyond emergency services and, of course, beyond Members of Congress.

Today we can extend those benefits to more Americans while we protect those with insurance from abuse and reform a Medicare system that is in trouble. Americans await Congress to take these next critical steps to give Americans the health care they need and deserve.

UNIVERSAL GOVERNMENT-RUN VACCINE PROGRAM DISASTER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government promised to save the country by providing 120 million H1N1 virus vaccines in 3 months. Of course the government only made 20 percent of that number on time. So the government had to decide who would get medicine and who would not. Wall Street special interest groups got their shots, but vaccines didn't go down the street to hospitals for children and pregnant women, the most vulnerable.

The Feds are also giving criminals in prison and even the terrorists at Guantanamo Bay prison flu shots while Americans who have committed no crime must get to the back of the line.

This simple shot program administered by the government is a mess and has its priorities wrong. Why? Because the government is in charge. The government decides who gets flu shots and who doesn't. Patients don't decide; doctors don't decide. This is what a universal government-run and government-rationed health care program looks like. Welcome to the future. And get to the end of the line.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, big insurance companies and their Republican allies are bitterly opposed to health care reform, and I understand their opposition. This bill will outlaw the worst and the most lucrative consumer abuses by the insurance industry. It repeals their unfair antitrust immunity. No more collusion and price-fixing to drive up your premiums. It outlaws the preexisting condition exclusion. It outlaws them from canceling your policy when you get sick, a common practice in the insurance industry. And no more small print lifetime caps that drive families to bankruptcy.

It improves Medicare coverage for all Americans and improves Medicare reimbursement for Oregon seniors and the disabled. The Republicans would have none of that. In fact, they opened new loopholes for abuses by the insurance industry by allowing them to base their national plans in the new state of the Northern Mariana Islands, which they have designated in their alternative. So when you have a complaint, you can call Jack Abramoff when he gets out of jail, and he will help you with your insurance problem. That's the Republican plan.

Our plan isn't perfect, but it is a good step toward providing affordable health care for all Americans.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the American people need to know what this debate is all about. On one hand, it is a complete takeover of the health care system that the Democratic Party is proposing. On the other hand, Republicans have offered alternatives to let the patients make decisions. In fact, I offered H.R. 3889, which is totally private, doesn't raise taxes or anything else.

Their plan will destroy the economy. It will put 5.5 million people out of work. It is going to destroy the doctor-

patient relationship. Government bureaucrats will be making decisions for every patient. The American people need to understand: This is about a government takeover of the whole health care system. They need to call their congressman and say “no” to the Nancy Pelosi steamroller of socialism.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, health care is not a frivolity or a recreation; it is life itself. To a woman with early-onset breast cancer, health care is life itself. To a child with juvenile-onset diabetes, health care is life itself.

It is well that we reflect how we founded this Union. We believe that all men are endowed with certain unalienable rights, and among those are the right to life—life—liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We pass health care to honor life not just on parchment, but in practice. We pass health care because we cherish the lives of all Americans, not just our own. This is an American step in progress. It is an American right to life.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, if you want to know the ultimate option, open up this bill and look. You are required as an American citizen to buy a health insurance policy that has been okayed and only okayed by the Federal Government. If you don't, you could pay a fine, and if you don't pay that fine, you could go to prison for up to 5 years. Where is the public option? Well, if you are in prison, you are going to get free medical care. I presume that is the ultimate tragedy in this bill.

We are changing the relationship of individuals to their government. Now, for the first time in history, as a condition of remaining in the United States, you must purchase something the Federal Government requires you to under the pain of a fine, up to \$250,000, and 5 years in prison. What kind of freedom is that? What kind of public option could that possibly be?

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. KILROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, this is an historic day and a very exciting day as we move towards a vote on a bill to make health care affordable and accessible for all Americans. Like you, I have been listening to my constituents. I have been hearing their stories.

Even last night I got a call from a friend. Steve, after fighting off lymphoma, got a notice from his insurance company that the policy for his law office was now being canceled, giving him a lot of insecurity about what his future would be and the future of the people who work for him.

This bill would end that kind of discrimination, the discrimination against people with preexisting conditions, and provide security to millions of Americans, Americans like me with multiple sclerosis and many of us with other preexisting conditions.

This is a moral issue for people, people who will now be able to access our health care system. Mr. Speaker, it is a very proud day to be able to take this historic step and end this discrimination.

WE NEED JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Speaker PELOSI told the American people that the misnamed stimulus bill would immediately create jobs and keep unemployment under 8 percent. However, unemployment has now topped 10 percent, with 2.8 million jobs lost since the misidentified stimulus was signed into law.

Despite these staggering numbers, Speaker PELOSI continues to push a job-killing health care takeover. Clearly, Congress has a case of misplaced priorities.

Patricia Owen lives on Hilton Head Island and owns FACES DaySpa. She is just one of the many small business owners who would be negatively impacted if this takeover is passed. With 23 employees at FACES DaySpa, the Owen family appreciates its dedicated staff. The Owen's service-based company will face more punitive taxes in PELOSI's health care takeover.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Thank you, veterans, for victory in the Cold War 20 years ago Monday with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

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HISTORIC DAY IN AMERICA

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed an historic day, a day we can all be proud that on behalf of the American people we are doing something.

So what is it the American people are going to get? Well, if you're a senior citizen in America, you're going to have \$500 more in your prescription drug benefit. You're going to be able to get your drugs that are brand name for 50 percent less if you're in the doughnut hole. And by 2019, that doughnut hole will be terminated.

What's in it for young people? Well, if you're good to your parents, you can stay on their health insurance until you're 27.

And how about for women? For women, you are no longer going to pay 140 percent more for your health insurance than a man of the same age. And by the way, you don't have to fear getting pregnant, because health insurance will cover your pregnancy.

And for everyone else in America, we are going to be paying \$1,400 less a year in uncompensated care.

There is nothing to fear. There is much to be jubilant about.

GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER OF AMERICAN LIVES

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, indeed, this is an historic day. We have a choice today between two bills; one which will have a government takeover of one-sixth of our economy, which will involve the Federal Government into the day-to-day lives of each and every American, or the Republican alternative, which actually goes to the central theme of the problems that we deal with today.

Not only that, senior citizens will be the most hurt by this government takeover of health care; \$500 billion taken out of Medicare, and with not one scintilla of evidence as to where it's going to come from. It will come from access to care, of course. Furthermore, CBO says that part B will increase by \$25 billion, and part D premiums by 20 percent.

I would say, in closing, God help us as the government takes over your day-to-day life.

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed an historic day. As the plaque over the Speaker's rostrum says, In our time and our generation, we should do something worthy to be remembered. Those were Daniel Webster's words, a man who served in this House.

We can fulfill the destiny of other people who have served with us in the Federal Government, from Teddy Roosevelt to Franklin Roosevelt to Harry Truman to Hubert Humphrey and to the recently late Senator Ted Kennedy. This is an important date for America when we bring us into the 21st century. We should have been here 50 or 60 years ago.

It is wrong that our country has an infant mortality rate equal to third-world nations. This bill will set out a newborn program that will try to rectify that. It will see that private practice doctors go into the inner cities, with general practitioners having an incentive to go there. With community

health centers in the inner cities and wellness and prevention programs not having a deductible, it will bring America into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Member of the United States Congress, and never prouder than this weekend.

AMERICANS WANT FREEDOM, NOT GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come today to ask a question: Why do the Democrats come to the floor to belittle the hardworking people who protest this government takeover of health care? They paid their own money, they drove their own cars, they weren't bussed here by the DCCC or the unions. They came to say, Listen to us. Listen to us, Madam Speaker. We don't want a government takeover of our health care system.

They don't want their children's future mortgaged to foreign countries. They don't want people who are not here legally to receive free health care. They want what the Founding Fathers and the Constitution wanted and guaranteed—freedom. What a novel idea—freedom.

HEALTH CARE IS FREEDOM REDEFINED

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk about freedom and liberty over the last couple days in Washington, DC, but the question really is: The person who is sick and can't get health care, are they really free? If you keep getting sick because you can't access a doctor, you can't get better, so you can't go to work, so you can't make money, is that person really free?

In 2009, we need to redefine freedom. Freedom in America in 2009 means being healthy and having access to a health care system that isn't just for the elite, but it's for everybody.

Now, our people are going to get a 15, 20, 30 percent increase. Businesses are going to get a 30 percent increase right now. This is what we're trying to prevent, an \$1,800 increase for the average family of four if we do absolutely nothing.

We're going to wake up in a few weeks in America, no more denials because of preexisting conditions; no more people in America or families in America will go bankrupt. We're going to fix this health care crisis that we have in this country.

VOTE "YES" ON PRO-LIFE AMENDMENT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)